

By STUART EARP

Wycombe Wanderers 4, Swindon Town 1

TONY Horseman turned on some vintage magic on Tuesday night against Third Division pacesetters Swindon Town and, in scoring a thoroughly deserved hat-trick, steered Wycombe Wanderers to a memorable 4-1 triumph at Loakes Park.

This was "Bodger" at his best. After missing Saturday's defeat at Ilford, he returned to the side and played his best game of the season. His hat-trick included two expertly taken penalties but it was his allround flair in attack that really caught the eye.

Revelling in the surprising amount of space presented by Swindon, who included four first team regulars, Horseman set up a string of chances for his fellow front runners. Another player in superb form was Terry Reardon. Spraying the ball through and around the visitors' defence, Terry must have stamped his claim for a regular place in the side again.

Wanderers' improved as this friendly, the sixth of the season, progressed. At first they failed to combine consistently but in the second half, especially, they had the Swindon defence in real trouble and it needed all the skill of centre back Dave Munks to save them on more than one occasion.

While Munks was the pick of the defenders, two players impressed upfront — centre forward Dave Syrett and winger Tom Jenkins. The latter, who cost £60,000 from Southampton a couple of years ago, turned on his skills only occasionally but Syrett put in 100 per cent effort and was rewarded with Town's only goal late in the game.

Goalkeeper John Maskell saved well from Syrett before Wanderers went ahead with a somewhat surprising penalty in the 15th minute. Centre half Glyn Broom aimed a kick at Horseman and referee John Allen immediately awarded the penalty. Horseman gave Mick Lawrence no chance with his spot kick.

Swindon had little to offer in attack early on while Wycombe built their attacks well but lacked the finish in front of goal. Often the approach work was excellent and created the necessary opening but the finishing shot was too weak to test the goalkeeper.

In the second half Horseman went from strength to strength. After only two minutes he latched onto a defensive error but was thwarted by Lawrence's fine save and then he made it 2-0 in the 49th minute. From Graham Mackenzie's corner Alan Phillips got up well to head for goal but Keith Searle intercepted and brought the ball down close to the bye-line. He then crossed inside for Horseman to ram home a deflected shot into the corner.

Three minutes later Horseman sent Lawrence diving full length to save a free kick and in the 57th minute he set up the third goal. This time he sent a truly brilliant ball right through the Swindon defence to Steve Perrin, who gave the 'keeper no chance with a well taken shot. Horseman's pass was a model of pace and accuracy.

Three goals up, Wycombe turned on some of the best football of the season. Reardon, Birdseye and Horseman showed all their best skills with marvellous control — backed up by the hard work of Paul Griffiths, Dave Bullock and Mick Holifield.

Goal number four came in the 77th minute. Keith Searle chased after Reardon's through ball and was upended by Lawrence for an obvious penalty. This time Horseman sent the ball soaring into the top right hand corner — a perfect spot kick.

Wycombe continued to dictate and spent virtually the rest of the game inside the Swindon half. Almost everything they attempted came off — even Reardon's back heels. It made the game look ridiculously easy and tended to give the team an air of over-confidence.

Swindon capitalised on that in the 82nd minute with their only goal. Inevitably Jenkins made the score, jinking past Paul Birdseye near the line and crossing for Sykes to glance a neat shot past Maskell's fingertips.

WYCOMBE: J. Maskell; P. Griffiths, D. Bullock, A. Phillips, G. Hand (sub P. Birdseye 45 mins); G. Mackenzie (sub H. Kennedy 73 mins), T. Reardon, M. Holifield; A. Horseman, K. Searle, S. Perrin, Sub D. Evans (not used).

SWINDON: M. Lawrence; C. Chalklin, D. Munks, G. Broom, K. Tanner; N. Gill (sub C. Gardner 64 mins), J. Gilligan (sub R. Farr 45 mins), K. Stroud; H. McLean, D. Syrett, T. Jenkins. **Referee:** J. Allen (High Wycombe).

Half time: 1-0. **Goalscorers —** **Wycombe:** Horseman 3 (15 pen), (49), (57 pen), Perrin (77). **Swindon:** Sykes (82).

Official attendance: 885.